REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 is respectfully requested.

The amendments made to the specification serve to update the references to co-pending application serial no. 09/586,153 which has issued as U.S. Patent 6,253,918. The changes made to the specification by the current amendment are attached hereto in a page entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made." Entry of this amendment is not believed to require a substantial amount of work on the part of the Examiner and the Office.

In the event there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903

(612) 332-5300

Date: 2-26-03

Katherine M. DeVries Smith

Reg. No. 42,157

KDS:PSTdb

23552
PATENT TRADBARK OFFICE

09/824,937



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

A decorative container providing a hollow region for displaying three-dimensional decorative objects is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,253,918 [Application Serial No. 09/586,153, filed June 2, 2000]. This container provides dividers within the hollow region for separating the decorative objects in a number of internal cavities and a removable access opening for accessing the hollow region.

The paragraph beginning at page 13, line 13 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to decorate the decorative container system of the present invention, the container 15 is turned upside down and the removable access plate 40 is removed, which provides access to the hollow region 34, as shown in FIG. 13. It may be desirable to rest the upper neck 62 on a working surface while decorating the container. The dividers 70 may be positioned within the grooves 76 as desired. Then, decorative objects 150 are dropped into position in the various internal cavities. A wand or other positioning member may be used to assist with placing the decorative objects within the cavities. An example of a wand that may be used with the decorative container of the present invention is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,253,918 [Application Serial No. 09/586,153], which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, in the text related to FIGS. 7-9. When the decorative objects have been arranged as desired, the removable access member is put back in place in the access opening. Once the removable access member is in place, the decorative objects are securely contained within the internal cavities and the container 15 may be turned so that the opening to the interior space is facing upward.